AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 41 (Cancelled)

42. (New) A method of communicating credentials, the method comprising:

a first party communicating ~~to a second party~~ a composite credential across a distributed electronic network to a second party wherein the composite credential comprises a plurality of obfuscated credentials in which different obfuscation is used for at least two credentials in the composite credential;

the second party de-obfuscating at least one credential; and

communicating to a third party at least one obfuscated credential from the composite credential.

43. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 42, wherein the second party receives a composite credential and the second party modifies the received composite credential before communicating it to the third party.

44. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 42, wherein the second party receives a composite credential and the second party communicates the received composite credential to the third party.

45. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 42, wherein all credentials are obfuscated within the composite credential.

46. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 45, in which different obfuscation is used for each obfuscated credential in the composite credential.

47. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 42, wherein the composite credential comprises a first credential and a second credential in which the second credential is enveloped by the first credential.

48. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 42, wherein the first party communicates to the second party an obfuscated composite credential

comprising a first credential and a second credential in which the second credential is enveloped by the first credential, wherein the obfuscated composite credential is de-obfuscated by the second party thereby to obtain the first credential and a partly de-obfuscated second credential, which partly de-obfuscated second credential is communicated by the second party to a third party.

49. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 48, wherein the third party de-obfuscates the partly de-obfuscated second credential.

50. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 42, wherein the composite credential is obfuscated.

51. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 50, wherein the composite credential is at least partly obfuscated, and wherein the second party de-obfuscates a relevant credential.

52. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 42, wherein at least one credential is digitally signed.

53. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 52, wherein a plurality of credentials is digitally signed.

54. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 52, wherein all credentials in the composite credential are digitally signed.

55. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 42, wherein the composite credential is digitally signed.

56. (New) A method of communicating credentials according to claim 42, in which the distributed electronic network is the internet.